

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: AORG, EAGR, UN, FAO, YO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO

A US PRELIMINARY VIEWS

REF: STATE 010697

SUMMARY. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT

OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF

PREPARATIONS FOR SUBJECT CONFERENCE REACTED POSITIVELY TO
US PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THEME, DIRECTION AND AGENDA, BUT ADDED
THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL PROBABLY FAVOR SOME BROADENING TO PERMIT
MORE FOCUS ON TRADE, FINANCIAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL LCAVEMU
OF LDC'S. END OF SUMMARY

1. WE DISCUSSED REF MESSAGE WITH SEKULIC ECONOMIC OFFICER IN
OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, FOREIGN SECRETARIAT,
AND WITHFELBABOV, ECONOMIC OFFICER, AMERICAN DESK, AND LEFT WITH
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THEM INFORMAL SUMMARY OF US PRELIMINARY VIEWS.

2. SEKULIC, WHO WORKED ON PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE AT LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION AND IS NOW COORDINATING YUGOSLAV POSITION, EXPRESSED BASIC AGREEMENT.

3. HE CONSIDERS US-SUGGESTED MAIN THEME (PARA 4) AND FOCUS ON SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM PROBLEMS (PARA 7) APPROPRIATE; AGREES THAT BROAD PRINCIPLES TO SERVE AS FRAMEWORK FOR WORK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE MOST PRACTICAL AND USEFUL CONFERENCE OUTCOME; (PARA 6) AGREES ON OBJECTIVES OF FEBRUARY AND LATER PREPCOMS (PARA 9); AND APPROVES OF PROPOSED AGENDA OUTLINE (PARA 10) "AS FAR AS IT GOES."

4. SEKULIC EXPRESSED PRELIMINARY VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT US SUGGESTION DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO SATISFY LDC DESIRE FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF FOOD IN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING TRADE AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS. AS RESULT OF LDC INITIATIVE, HE NOTED, GENERAL ASSEMBLY ASSIGNED CONFERENCE TASK OF DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO RESOLVE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM WITHIN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLACED PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON MEASURES FOR INCREASING LDC TRADE, ALONG WITH FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

5. YUGOSLAVIA HAS NOT YET PREPARED DETAILED AGENDA SUGGESTIONS, SEKULIC STATED, BUT WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY SUPPORT LDC INITIATIVE TO BROADEN CONFERENCE SCOPE.

6. ONLY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS HE HAD AT THIS TIME WERE NEED FOR (A) DISCUSSION OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES WHICH LDC'S PRODUCE FOR EXPORT, INCLUDING COCOA, COFFEE, BANANAS AND TEA; (B) DISCUSSION OF FINANCING OF FOOD STOCKPILES (C) REITERATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, ALONG WITH REITERATION OF TOKYO DECLARATION; (D) MINISTERIAL-LEVEL ECONOMIC, AS WELL AS AGRICULTURAL, PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE.

7. SEKULIC AGREED WITH OUR OBSERVATION THAT FURTHER BROADENING OF CONFERENCE AGENDA WOULD REDUCE CHANCES OF ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING USEFUL, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAIN AIM - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR OTHER FORA "AND ABOVE ALL FOR SPECIAL GA SESSION ON PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT" - WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

8. LDC'S WILL COORDINATE POSITIONS FOR CONFERENCE WITHIN GROUP OF 77 SEKULIC STATED - WITH ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA SERVING AS "CATALYST." ALGIERS GROUP MAY FIRST MEET IN "COORDINATING BUREAU" FRAMEWORK.

9. COMMENT. IN ONE HOUR SEKULIC DISCOURSE, NOT A SINGLE
REFERENCE MADE TO ANY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONCERN MOTIVATING
YUGOSLAV POSITIONS FOR CONFERENCE, AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THESE
BEING BASED ENTIRELY ON DESIRE TO MAINTAIN LEADERSHIP ROLE IN
LDC GROUP.
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